REMARKS

Claims 1 – 25 are pending in the application. Claims 1 – 25 have been rejected. Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 18, 19, 21, 22 and 23 have been amended. No new claims have been added.

Claim 18 stands rejected because of an informality. Claims 4, 7 – 12, and 19 -25 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112. Claims 4, 7 – 12, and 18 – 25 have been amended to address these rejections.

Independent claim 1 stands rejected under Dworkin, U.S. Patent No. 4,992,940 (Dworkin). Claims 7, 13 and 19 stand rejected under Dworkin, in view of Lemchen et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,594,642 B1 (Lemchen).

The present invention, as set forth by independent claim 1, relates to a method of ordering material. The method includes considering a quantity of a material available from a plurality of suppliers, identifying a supplier to receive an order for the material based upon the considering, and sending electronically an order for the particular material to the supplier identified to receive the order.

The present invention, as set forth by independent claim 7, relates to a method of assembling a computer system. The method includes considering a quantity of a material available from a plurality of suppliers, identifying a supplier to receive an order for the material, ordering the material from the supplier identified to receive the order, and assembling the computer system at an assembly facility from the material received at the assembly facility.

The present invention, as set forth by independent claim 13, relates to a method of manufacturing a computer system. The method includes considering a quantity of material available from a plurality of suppliers, identifying a supplier to receive an order for the material based upon the considering, sending electronically an order for material to the supplier identified to receive the order, and manufacturing the computer system at a manufacturing facility using the material received at the manufacturing facility.

-6-

The present invention, as set forth by independent claim 19, relates to a computer system, wherein the computer system is assembled by a method. The method includes considering a quantity of material available from a plurality of suppliers, identifying a supplier to receive an order for the material based upon the considering, sending electronically an order for the material to the supplier identified to receive the order, and assembling the computer at an assembly facility.

Dworkin discloses an automated system to assist a user in locating and purchasing goods or services sold by a plurality of vendors. The system includes a programmed computer which is linked to a database. The database contains information about different products, arranged in various categories. For each product, the database contains information on price, vendor, specifications and/or availability. In operating the system, the user first indicates the general type of product desired. The system responds by displaying a template giving specifications for the type of product selected. The user then completes the template to tell the system the minimum desired specifications for the product. The computer then searches the database to retrieve all products, within the product category selected, having the specifications required by the user. The system displays such products to the user, who can request more detailed information about a particular product, or information on vendors and prices. The user can then select one or more items for immediate purchase, and the system automatically transmits the order to the appropriate vendor.

Peterson discloses a process for distributing items, especially industrial maintenance repair and operating (MRO) parts and supplies. The process includes identifying a plurality of vendors selling an item. An information network is established by which each vendor can communicate to the other vendors a current inventory quantity and a current price of the item each of the vendors has for sale. An agreement is established among the vendors in which a first vendor agrees to sell to a second vendor, upon demand at a future point in time, up to the then current inventory quantity of the item at the then current price communicated over the information network by the first vendor to the second vendor

Lemchen discloses a system for ordering and manufacturing personalized products over the Internet. A robotic manufacturing machine offers options on multiples physical features of a

-7-

product. These options are presented to consumers via the Internet. A consumer selects the options using a computer. The selected options are received by a web server and converted to machine instructions. The machine instructions are transmitted to the robotic machine which produces a product according to the instructions received. The end result is a personalized product manufactured specifically to the consumer's selections as a result of a completely automated process.

Dworkin, Lemchen and Peterson, taken alone or in combination do not teach or suggest a method of ordering material much less such a method which includes considering a quantity of a material available from a plurality of suppliers, *identifying a supplier to receive an order for the material based upon the considering*, and sending electronically an order for the particular material to the supplier identified to receive the order, all as required by independent claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over Dworkin, Lemchen and Peterson. Claims 2 – 5 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least this reason.
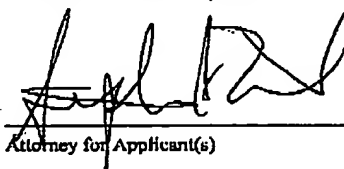
Dworkin, Lemchen and Peterson, taken alone or in combination do not teach or suggest a method of assembling a computer system, much less a method which includes considering a quantity of a material available from a plurality of suppliers, *identifying a supplier to receive an order for the material based upon the considering*, ordering the material from the supplier identified to receive the order, and assembling the computer system at an assembly facility from the material received at the assembly facility, all as required by independent claim 7. Accordingly, claim 7 is allowable over Dworkin, Lemchen, and Peterson. Claims 8 – 12 depend from claim 7 and are allowable for at least this reason.

Dworkin, Lemchen and Peterson, taken alone or in combination do not teach or suggest a method of manufacturing a computer system, much less a method which includes considering a quantity of material available from a plurality of suppliers, *identifying a supplier to receive an order for the material based upon the considering*, sending electronically an order for the material to the supplier identified to receive the order, and manufacturing the computer system at a manufacturing facility using the material received at the manufacturing facility, all as required by independent claim 13. Accordingly, claim 13 is allowable over Dworkin, Lemchen and Peterson. Claims 14 – 18 depend from claim 13 and are allowable for at least this reason.
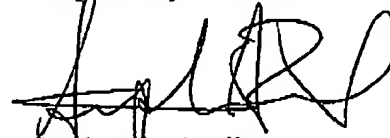
-8-

Dworkin, Lemchen and Peterson, taken alone or in combination do not teach or suggest a computer system, wherein the computer system is assembled by a method, much less a method which includes considering a quantity of material available from a plurality of suppliers, *identifying a supplier to receive an order for the material based upon the considering*, sending electronically an order for the material to the supplier identified to receive the order, and assembling the computer at an assembly facility, all as required by independent claim 19. Accordingly, claim 19 is allowable over Dworkin, Lemchen and Peterson. Claims 20 – 25 depend from claim 19 and are allowable for at least this reason.

CONCLUSION

The claims have been amended to improve clarity. In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via facsimile on October 23, 2003.

_____
Attorney for Applicant(s)

Date of Signature
(0/23/03)

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen A. Terrile
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 32,946

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

OCT 2 3 2003

OFFICIAL

-9-